OLD ENGLAND.

By ARGUS CENTOCULI, *Inſpector-General of* Great-Britain.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1750. [N°. 324.]

Regis ad Exemplum totus componitur Orbis. CLAUD.

THERE was not a more fruitful Subject, or perhaps more beaten, than the Tyranny of *Louis* XIV. was in his own Days thro' *Europe*. He was the Bane and Scourge, not only of all his neighbouring Princes, but of his own Subjects; continually haraſſing the Emperor, and invading the Territories of the Princes of *Germany*; ſome of which he cruelly burnt, eſpecially the *Palatinate*. He was ever ſeizing on the Domains of his *Brain*. He arbitrarily diſpoſſeſſed the Duke of *Lorrain*, and thought to have annexed that Country to his own. He was a conſtant Diſturber of *Italy*, ſeized on *Pignerol* and *Caſan*, invaded even the Rights and Franchiſes of the Pope, and annoyed the *Switzers* by erecting Forts and Citadels on their Frontiers. He perfidiouſly ſeized on a vaſt Number of *Dutch* Ships in his own Ports in the Time of profound Peace, and made War upon them, as he vainly termed it, for his Glory. He embroiled the Affairs of *Great Britain*, and almoſt deſtroyed *Genoa* upon a trifling Occaſion. Thus this royal Ravager ſtood, when our King *William* III. united the ſuffering Princes into Reſentment, cemented the *Grand Alliance*, and rouſed them into Arms, to give Limits to his Power, humble his Pride, and lay his boaſted Glory in the Duſt.

A *French* Manuſcript, for I think it was never printed, out of which I took ſome Extracts, ſays thus of him in Relation to his Tyranny over his Proteſtant Subjects, What Wrong had theſe People done the King? Had they not always been faithful to him? That was not their Crime, for it muſt be acknowleged, to the Shame of the Catholic Religion, that while the greateſt Part of us ſided with the Princes in the late Civil Wars, they ſtood always firm to the King; and it was to them only that the King was indebted for his Crown: That which made them criminal was their Religion, and their Refuſal to yield Obedience to his impious Commands in turning Catholics; tho' they humbly and dutifully remonſtrated to him, that they ſhould act againſt their Conſciences if they abandoned the Doctrines of their Reformation. But the King was abſolute and would not be denied; and, becauſe they refuſed him immediate Obedience, his Fury kindled againſt them; ſo that neither Age, nor Sex, nor Merit, nor Quality, eſcaped it: He let looſe his Dragoons upon them; he ſet up Villains and Robbers to be their *Converters*; and, like another *Mahomet*, he made Uſe of Fire and Sword to force them to receive his Doctrine.

With what Colours ſhall I draw the hideous Picture of theſe abominable Converſions, at which even the *Holy See* trembled, and which have drawn ſo many Tears from the Eyes of all real Catholics? This implacable Prince no ſooner heard that his Proteſtant Subjects had declared they would die in their Religion, becauſe they believed it to be the Truth, and that, excepting in that ſingle Point, they were ready to ſacrifice their Lives for his Honor, than he thundered out his Orders for his butcherly *Converters* to pour into all the Provinces, and force the Conſciences of thoſe innocent People at all Events. His Orders were attended with a Declaration that he was reſolved to have his Pleaſure put in Execution whatever it coſt him; and that his *Converters* ſhould ſtand indemnify'd for all Barbarities whatever they ſhould commit in enforcing Obedience to his Commands.

Thus animated, theſe infernal Legions haſtened to execute the bloody Mandate of their cruel Monarch: Nor was there any ſort of Inhumanity they did not practice. The Oppreſſions and Violences of theſe lewd *Converters*, and the unheard-of Torments which they invented to preach up the King's Religion would ſwell up into many bulky Volumes. On their entering a City ſome ſeized upon the Gates and all the Avenues, while others beat about the Streets to ſeize upon Fugitives, and force them to attend to the Documents of theſe abominable Apoſtles. They were quartered at Diſcretion by Order of the Intendants of the Provinces, and ſometimes of the Biſhops themſelves to the Shame of the Epiſcopal Dignity; and they no ſooner entered into a Houſe but they filled it with horrible Cries, accompanied with a thouſand Blaſphemies. They appeared like ſo many Devils let looſe and broke out of Hell to make War upon Mankind. Neither Tears or Submiſſion could move them: They hanged both Men and Women by the Feet or the Hair of their Head to the Cieling, or on Hooks in the Chimnies. They plunged them into Wells or Sloughs full of Mud and Filth. They half-roaſted and baſted their naked Limbs with melted Greaſe. They thruſt red-hot Coals into the Palms of their Hands, then cloſed them by Force. They poured Wine into their Bodies with Funnels: They blew them up with Bellows 'till their Bellies burſt. They tore the Hair from their Chins and Head, and their Nails from their Fingers and Toes. They ſtript them naked, and, after they had offered them a thouſand Indignities, they ſtuck Pins into them from Head to Foot. They pincked and gaſhed their Skins with Penknife, and ſometimes with red-hot Pincers nipped the Fleſh from their Arms, or elſe took them by the Noſes and led them from Room to Room.

Modeſty will not permit to tell the Ignominies the Women were conſtrained to undergo. They raviſhed ſeveral, and ſome in the Preſence of their Huſbands and Fathers, whom they had tied to the Bed-Poſts. 'Tis impoſſible to recount the various Torments which thoſe infernal Miſcreants invented to palm the Catholic Faith in the Hearts of the King's Subjects. They committed thoſe Cruelties which perhaps the Devils themſelves would not have thought of; and when they obſerved that thoſe whom they ſo tormented endured all, they bethought themſelves at length how to make them mad, by hindering them from Sleep for whole Weeks together. Rich and poor, Men and Women, young and old, ſick and ſound, all without Diſtinction, deeply experienced their Barbarity; while the King and his Confeſſor laughed at theſe Inhumanities which drew ſo much Blood and ſuch Showers of Tears from thoſe religious People, who however ſupported themſelves with a wonderful Conſtancy of Mind; and then it was that the frantic Monarch filled all the Cloiſters, Dungeons, and Gallies, with infinite Numbers of theſe miſerable People; who, in regard to the good Services they had done him, were worthy of a better Reward. Thus *France* was a Theatre full of Dread and Horror; the Hangmen at Work at all Hours; and they that died in Contempt of the King's Orders, were dragged along the Streets as a Spectacle to the People, and then thrown into the common Sewers.

Having thus given a horrid Inſtance of this haughty King's Ingratitude and general Injuſtice towards his Proteſtant Subjects, his beſt Friends; let us recount an Inſtance of a particular Cruelty which he executed upon one of his Prime Miniſters, a *Roman* Catholic, merely to poſſeſs himſelf of his great Eſtate and Riches.

M. *Fouquet*, Father of the preſent Marſhal *Belle-iſle*, was Super-intendant of the Finances, and had a noble generous Soul; but Cardinal *Mazarine* had conceived a Diſlike to him, for that, being Advocate-General of the Parliament, he was tenacious of their Rights and Privileges, and would never ſuffer the Miniſter to decry them. As he was above the Cardinal's Reach, by Virtue of his Office, he durſt not ſhew his Diſguſt; but on his Death-bed, he vented it profuſely to the King in Inſinuations of Jealouſy againſt his Riches and Power, his Hoſpitality, his Port, his Dignity, and the Magnificence of his Palace, his Furniture, Entertainments and Attendance, as incompatible with the King's Safety: And what is moſt remarkable is, that the treacherous *Italian* did this in half an Hour after he had been embracing the open, undeſigning *Fouquet*, and pouring a thouſand Profeſſions of his Gratitude into his Boſom for the Service he did him during his Exile, as well againſt the Power of the Princes as in Supplies for his neceſſary Maintenance.

The King luſted after his Riches, and with *Tellier* and *Colbert* meditated his Deſtruction, which they durſt not attempt while he was Advocate-General; for as the Parliament would then be his Judges, they apprehended he would be acquitted without ſtronger Proof of Guilt than they had to produce againſt him. The wily *Colbert*, obſerving the Multiplicity of Buſineſs which fell to *Fouquet*'s Share ſince the Cardinal's Death, takes an Opportunity to inſinuate to him that it was impoſſible for him to ſupport himſelf under them, and ſo adviſed and prevailed upon him to diſpoſe of his Advocate's Place. Thus did the unconſcious *Fouquet* expoſe himſelf to the King's Deſigns and the Malice of his two Miniſters, who luſted as much after his Power and his Office as the King did after his Riches. To facilitate the Combination, and lead him more effectually into the Snare, his perfidious Maſter always ſmiled graciouſly upon him, and ſeemed to repoſe an unlimited Confidence in his Conduct and Integrity: But he had no ſooner laid down his Employment, than he cauſed him to be arreſted, and all his Papers ſeized upon; and ſo deprived him of his Defence before a garbled Bench of Judges, compoſed of the King's own Creatures; and, ſo confident was the Royal Spoiler of having *Fouquet* ſentenced to Death, that he prepared to go to *Chartres* to avoid the Importunity which he foreſaw would attend him in his Behalf, as he was much beloved and eſteemed among the Great: But, while he waited ready equipt for his Journey, he had the Mortification to hear that *Fouquet* was acquitted of Corruption, and only ſentenced to perpetual Baniſhment for fortifying *Belle-iſle*, as it was urged, againſt the King. This Turn took Riſe from the Reſolution of one ſingle good Man among the Judges, who bravely ſtemmed the Torrent of Partiality and Court Prejudice; But the partly-diſ-

appointed Monarch changed the Sentence into perpetual Impriſonment, as he was well aware *Fouquet* might in his Baniſhment find Means to convince the World of his Innocence and the King's conſpiring his Ruin, which was one Motive that induced him to wiſh he had been ſentenced to Death; and perhaps it would have been more agreeable to the unfortunate *Fouquet*, for the Change of Baniſhment into Impriſonment was even worſe than Death to him, for he was thrown into the Dungeon of *Vincennes*, and after that carried to *Pignerolle*, where he lay ſeventeen Years in miſerable Confinement.

Thus fell this great Man, only criminal for being rich, which he accounted for to an Exactneſs at his Trial, and was acquitted of every Charge excepting only the fortifying of *Belle-iſle* for his Pleaſure, which he had purchaſed with his own Money; and this was deemed a kind of Treaſon, though very innocently done. The King ſeized on all his Eſtate, as a general Confiſcation attended the Sentence, and not a ſingle Livre was ever reſtored to the Family: Tho' his Son is now one of the richeſt and moſt potent Peers in *France*, yet both his Eſtate and Title were acquired by his own Merit and Induſtry. Theſe were the *Virtues* by which *Louis* XIV. arrived at his Glory and the Sirname of *le Grand!*

To the Worthy Liverymen *of the City of* London,

GENTLEMEN,

AS the *Election of Chamberlain* of the City is Annual, you are earneſtly deſired not to engage your Votes for Midſummer Day next, as a Time will be appointed to conſider of *a proper Perſon to nominate for that Office*; when all the Livery at preſent aggrieved will be deſired to attend.

☞ Remember your Appellation in —— *Who values the Intereſt of the* MOB *of a* Common Hall!

LONDON.

Private Letters from Breſt, and ſome other Ports of France mention, that they are building ſeveral Men of War, in order to put their Marine on a good Footing; that they have got a great many Engliſh Workmen in the Yards, who have been cajoled by the French Emiſſaries here, who promiſed them every Thing they could wiſh for at the Time they were engaged: But Experience has taught them how little thoſe Promiſes are to be depended on: They are not only diſappointed in their Expectations, but prevented from coming home.

On Sunday Morning the Pelham Buſs and her Tender, the Diſpatch Sloop, ſailed from her Moorings at Radcliff Croſs with a fair Wind for Shetland, and were followed the ſame Evening by the Carteret Buſs, and her Tender followed laſt Wedneſday.

By a Veſſel juſt arrived, diſpatched Expreſs by Governor Cornwallis from Nova Scotia, there is an Account that the Governor (having had Notice that a large Body of French and Indians had taken Poſt in the Iſthmus of Chignecto) had diſpatched, in the Month of April laſt, a large Detachment of Troops and Rangers under the Command of Major Lawrence of Col. Warburton's Regiment, to diſpoſſeſs them; that on the Approach of the Engliſh the Indians abandoned the Town, which conſiſted of near 200 Houſes and two Churches, after having reduced it to Aſhes, and threw themſelves under the Protection of the French.—The Engliſh Officer who commanded the Troops had afterwards an Interview with the French Commandant, and ſoon after reimbarked his Troops, and arrived ſafe at Minas. It is judged that he found the Enemy too ſtrong to attempt any Thing farther without a greater Force; but that ſome vigorous Meaſures will be taken as ſoon as the Governor ſhall have proper Inſtructions from England; as the Support of this Settlement will be the abſolute Protection of the Trade and Intereſt of all the Northern Colonies.

His Majeſty has been graciouſly pleaſed to grant to Simon Fraſer, Eſq; eldeſt lawful Son of Simon Fraſer late Lord Lovat a full and free Pardon and Remiſſion on Account of his Acceſſion to the late unnatural Rebellion and the ſame has lately paſſed the great Seal.

On Sunday his Excellency the Baron Solenthall, Knight of the White Elephant, and his Lady, who arrived on Saturday from Dunkirk, waited on his Royal Highneſs the Princeſs of Wales at Leiceſter Houſe.

We hear from Wiltſhire, that laſt Week died the Rev. and learned Dr. Thomas Burnet, Rector of Weſt Kingſton and Prebendary of the Cathedral Church of Sarum.

His Grace the Lord Archbiſhop of York has been pleas'd to collate the Rev. Francis Wanly, D. D. (one of his Grace's domeſtic Chaplains) to the Rectory of Stockeſley in Cleveland, in the room of the Rev. Mr. Cooke, deceaſed; and we hear that Dr. Wanley will likewiſe ſucceed the late Rev. Dr. Deving, as Dean of Rippon in Yorkſhire.

Whitehall, June 5. Their Excellencies the Lords Juſtices in Council have been pleaſed to order, that the Parliament which ſtands prorogued to Thurſday the 14th of this Inſtant, ſhould be farther prorogued to Thurſday the 14th of this Inſtant, ſhould be farther prorogued to Thurſday the 30th of Auguſt next.

We hear that the following Gentlemen will be appointed to act as Proxies for the Knights of the Garter, at the Inſtallation on the 12th of next Month, viz. Sir Clement Cottrell Dormer, Sir Edward Fawkener, Sir Mullon Lambard, Sir Robert Willmot, and Sir Jeffery Elwes.

We hear from Huntingdon, that on Friday laſt came on the Choice of High Steward of that Corporation, vacant by the Reſignation of the Right Hon. the Earl of Sandwich, when his Grace John Duke of Bedford was unanimouſly elected.

On Tueſday the 22d of May laſt the Right Hon. John Earl of Sandwich was unanimouſly choſen Recorder of the Town of Godmanchelter, in the room of the Hon. Mr. Baron Clarke, deceaſed.

And Samuel Henry Pont, of Lincoln's Inn, Eſq; is appointed his Lordſhip's Deputy.

A few Day ſince died at Grange, near Aylesford in Hampſhire, Captain Henly, Brother to Robert Henly, Eſq; Member of Parliament for Bath.

Laſt Week died Sir Francis Curzon, Bart. at his Seat at Waterperry near Thame in Oxfordſhire. He has no ſurviving Iſſue

We hear that the late Mrs. Daſh, of Peterſham, who died immenſely rich, has left 5000 l. for the Building and endowing Alms Houſes in the Pariſh of Iſleworth, where ſhe was interred in a grand and magnificent Manner. Upwards of 40 l. was diſtributed to the Poor at the Church Door, the ſame Evening agreeable, to the Deſire of that generous and well diſpoſed Lady.

Monday the Purſer of the Royal Duke, Capt. George Cumings, came to the India Houſe with Advice, that the ſaid Ship arrived off the Iſle of White on Sunday laſt, from China: She left St. Helena April the 3d, where the Day before arrived the Griffin, Capt. George Dethick, from Fort St. David's and China, and was in ten Days after to ſail for England.

The Company have alſo Advice, that the Norfolk, Capt. Handcock, bound for Coaſt and Bay, was failed from Madeira, and was the 15th of May ſpoke with in Lattitude 31, then all well on board.

Extract of a Letter from on Board the Edgbaſton, riding at Calcutta in Bengal, Auguſt 2, 1749.

"We are at Length arrived here, after the manifold Dangers we have undergone; as to facing our Enemies we certainly expected that; but afterwards a greater Danger enſued, ſuch as the Loſs of all our Maſts; at the ſame Time all the Ships we left in Fort St. David's Road we entirely loſt, and hourly the dead Bodies ſwam along ſide of us. Ourſelves being in ſuch Diſtreſs ſtruck a very great Damp in every Man, from the higheſt to the loweſt, having our Hold near full of Water, and the chief Part of the Ballaſt being Sand ſtopt our Pumps, ſo that we every Moment expected to go to the Bottom; but thro' the Mercy of God we arrived here the 17th of March. Our Captain died at Sea the 27th of April, 1742; and although our Stay here has been ſo ſhort, we buried twelve Men, and have many more ſick. Our Stay here will be three or four Months repairing our Ship, which is in a very bad Condition: But hope to ſee you in thirteen or fourteen Months."

Extract of a Letter from Leghorn, May 27. N. S.

"The 25th Inſtant, we had a rude Shock of an Earthquake in Calabria, by which many Houſes were thrown down, and a great Number of People were buried in the Rubbiſh."

We hear from the Leward Iſlands that they have had ſome fine Rains, and that they had a Proſpect of a good Crop.

One Day laſt Week a Duel was fought near the Hot-Wells, Briſtol, between a Chaplain and a Midſhipman belonging to the Royal Navy, when the latter was ſhot in the Temples but there was ſome Hopes of his Recovery.

Thurſday ſome Officers of the Navy, who have for ſome Time been under Confinement on the Complaint of a Superior Officer, were ſet at Liberty, but are to appear to anſwer that Charge at a Time fixed on.

Laſt Wedneſday Evening the Juſtices ſent an Order to Sadler's Wells, and likewiſe to the New Wells, near the London Spaw, for them to deſiſt performing any Pantomime Entertainments, which was regarded by the Proprietors of Sadlers, who have not performed ſince: But the Owners of the New Wells, not minding the Notice ſent, exhibited the next Night and the Night following, when another Order came for them to deſiſt immediately; upon which one of the Performers attempted to make an Apology to the Audience upon the Occaſion, which they anſwered by throwing of Bottles, Glaſſes, &c. at him, and finiſhed their Reſentment by tearing up the Benches, breaking Windows, and ſuch like Amuſements, to the very great Detriment of the Proprietors.

At the Adjournment of the General Quarter Seſſions of the Peace for Surry, held at St. Margarets Hill Southwark laſt Week, Mary Alſop, Buthia Davis, and Elizabeth Lock, were tried for keeping notorious Brothels, and found guilty; the two former to be ſet in the Pillory at St. Margaret's Hill to Day, and the other is fined 19s.

At the ſame Seſſions, a certain noted Attorney, entered into a Recognizance of 100 l. and his Sureties in 50 l. each for his Appearance at the next General Quarter Seſſions of the Peace to be held at Guildford, upon an Indictment found againſt him for Barretry.

Monday a noted Prize Fighter was committed to the Gatehouſe by Juſtice Frazer, for attempting to ſhoot a Chairman in Suffolk-ſtreet, and wounding ſeveral others with his Broad-Sword.

Tueſday the Body of a young Man, ſuppoſed to be about eighteen Years of Age, was taken out of the River at the Lower Chain Rotherhith. The Body was thrown acroſs a Hawſer when the Boat took it up, and had on a Blue-grey Suit of Cloaths, with ſome Money in his Pocket.

On Monday a young Lad at Hammerſmith, ſhooting at a Mark, unfortunately ſhot the Son of Mr. Skeadin, of that Place in ſo dangerous a Manner that his Life is deſpaired of.

Tueſday three young Men were defrauded of about three Guineas and a Half, and their Buckles, by pricking at the Garter, in Morefields, by ſome Fellows who had defrauded ſeveral others, but had ſo great a Number of their Accomplices about them, that nobody dared to interrupt them.

Yeſterday ſe'nnight as Sir Thomas Hankey, was going to his Houſe on Clapham Common, he was ſtopped at the Alm-houſes near Clapham by a ſingle Highwayman, poorly mounted, who robbed him of his Watch and five Guineas, but behaved in a very civil Manner.

On Wedneſday Evening laſt the Inhabitants of Nicholas Lane in Lombard-ſtreet, were greatly alarmed at the Appearance of Fire coming out of the Window of a Houſe in the ſaid Lane; whereupon they forced the Door, and very probably prevented a great deal of Miſchief. Upon Enquiry it appeared that the Family being gone into the Country, had left a Female Servant to take Care of the Houſe, who had invited another of her own Sex to keep her Company, and alſo two of the Male kind to make their Recreation perfect. In their innocent Frolics they happened to ſet a quantity of Paper on Fire; for which a rude Magiſtrate committed them all for further Examination, except one of the Men, who, baſhful of appearing before a Juſtice, modeſtly choſe to withdraw.

Laſt Sunday Morning there was the greateſt Storm of Thunder and Lightning at Mill-End, in the Pariſh of Rickmanſworth, Hertfordſhire, that was ever known in thoſe Parts. It began about Nine o'Clock, and laſted 'till 12 at Noon, when Samuel Gurney, Farmer, had ten Sheep ſtruck dead on the Spot, and ſeveral others wounded, in a Field next to his own Houſe. It alſo ſhivered the Bark of an Elm-Tree to Pieces in the ſame Field.

Mrs. Keith's Corpſe was removed from her Huſband's Houſe in May-Fair the Middle of October laſt, to an Apothecary's in South Audley Street, where ſhe lies in a Room hung with Mourning, and is to continue there till Mr. Keith can attend her Funeral. ——Several Perſons, belonging to Churches and Chapels, together with many others, ſuppoſing the Marriages at May Fair New Chapel to be detrimental to their Intereſt, have made it their Buſineſs to rave and clamour, but in ſuch a Manner as not to deſerve an Anſwer, becauſe every Thing they have ſaid tends only to expoſe their own Ignorance and Malice, in the Opinion of People of good Senſe and Underſtanding.—The Way to Mr. Keith's Chapel is thro' Piccadilly, by the End of St. James's-Street, and down Clarges-Street, and turn on the Left Hand. The Marriages (together with a Licence on a Five Shilling Stamp, and Certificate) are carried on for a Guinea, as uſual, any Time 'till four in the Afternoon, by another regular Clergyman, at Mr. Keith's Little Chapel in May Fair, near Hyde Park Corner, oppoſite the Great Chapel, and within Ten Yards of it. There is a Porch at the Door like a Country Church Porch.

COUNTRY NEWS.

Newcaſtle, June 2. After the ſtricteſt Enquiry, we can with Pleaſure aſſure the Public, that the Diſtemper which lately raged amongſt the Horned Cattle in ſeveral Parts of this Country, is entirely abated; which, next to Divine Providence, muſt be chiefly owing to the Care and Vigilance of the Magiſtrates of this Town, and the Juſtices of Northumberland.

Canterbury, June 2. We hear from Dover, that a few Days ago the French Gentleman, who lately was impriſoned there, for breaking open the Accompting-Houſe of Mr. Minet, and taking from thence a large Sum of Money, has made his Eſcape. 'Tis ſaid the Jailor is gone to London with a Felon.

SCOTLAND.

Glaſgow, May 18. Yeſterday a full Length Picture of the Duke of Argyle, which his Grace was pleaſed to ſit for, at the Deſire of the City of Glaſgow, was put up in the Town Hall. The whole Picture is painted by Mr. Ramſay's own Hand, and is eſteemed a very maſterly Performance.

Edinburgh, May 28. On Saturday the 16th Inſt. the Circuit Court ſat down at Inverneſs, when Elizabeth Mackenzie, for willful Fire raiſing, upon her own Application was baniſhed. Monday thereafter came on a Trial of Kenneth Dow Kennedey, for theft of Cattle, and after long Proof, was brought in Guilty, and ſentenced to be hanged on the 6th of July next. And on Tueſday the Lords proceeded to the Trial of Donald Mac Donald of Abararder, and others indicted for an attrocious Riot, at the Inſtance of Anne Mac Perſon, and Angus Mac Donald; the Jury returned a ſpecial Verdict, upon which the Lords pronounced Sentence ordaining the Pannels to make Payment to the Purſuers of 1000 Merks in Name of Damages, to be impriſoned for three Months, and thereafter till Payment of the 1000 Merks, and 'till they find Caution to keep the Peace for a Year.

IRELAND.

Dublin, May 26. Thurſday laſt a great Number of Weavers aſſembled themſelves in a riotous Manner, and went through ſeveral Parts of this City cutting the printed Linens and Cotten Gowns off Womens Backs, though our own Manufacture, and committed ſeveral other Irregularities, to the great Terror of ſeveral Perſons, who were obliged to ſhut up their Shops; a great Body of Linnen Weavers alſo aſſembled to oppoſe the others, which brought on a Battle, in which ſeveral were wounded on both Sides; but a Party of Dragoons being brought from the Barracks to quell them, they were ſoon diſperſed.

We hear from Augher in the County of Meath, that on Wedneſday laſt there was a more dreadful Storm of Thunder and Lightning than any that can be remembered, which continued for about an Hour, when a Barn of Benjamin Pratt, Eſq; was burnt to the Ground, and a Man who was threſhing in it was ſo ſeverely ſcorched, that his Life is deſpared of. It is believed the Flames would have communicated themſelves to great Part of the Town, had not a very heavy Shower of Rain providentially fallen, which prevented any further Damage.

Sunday Evening laſt the Ormond and Liberty Boys met in Kevan's Port where they had a great Battle. A Party of Dragoons and a Company of Foot were obliged to be ſent to diſperſe them.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

TURKY.

Conſtantinople, April 23. By many ſucceſſive Couriers from the Frontiers of Perſia, we have the News and following Circumſtances of a Revolution in that Country:

Ali Kouli Kan, who had taken the Name of Ibrahim Schach, or King Ibrahim, believed, that with the Aſſiſtance of the Aguans who had joined his Party, he was able to cruſh the Rebels who oppoſed him. Fully confiding in this Belief, and in the Meaſures which he had taken, he ſet out from Iſpahan with a numerous Army, the principal Kans of the Kingdom commanding under him. In the Neighbourhood of Caſbin he came up with the Rebels, whom he attacked, and was entirely defeated by them and himſelf made Priſoner. The Treatment which is generally practiſed among the Perſians, by the Conqueror who has triumphed over his Enemy, and made himſelf Maſter of his Perſon, fell to the Share of the unhappy Victim; for his Eyes were immediately plucked out, and he was then carried to a Fortreſs, where he is to continue till it be determined whether his Life ſhall be ſpared, or not. The Heads of all the Kans as well of thoſe made Priſoners as killed in the Combat, have been ſent to Iſpahan, in order to be expoſed in the Public Places. The Chief of the Rebels has been prochaimed Schah, or King of Perſia, and is on March towards the Capital, to make know his Authority, and take Poſſeſſion of the Government.

GERMANY.

Hall, May 15. There happened on Tueſday laſt ſo fierce a Fire in the Village of Schletau, that in leſs than a Quarter of an Hour the whole Town was reduced to Aſhes.

The next Day a Fire broke out at Holleben, another ſmall Village, about a Mile diſtant from the former, and burnt down a conſiderable Part of it, notwithſtanding all the Aſſiſtance the Inhabitants could procure from the adjacent Villages; and we hear, that a great Number of them periſhed unfortunately in the Flames.

RUSSIA.

Peterſburgh, May 17. The Remarkable Regulation, in regard to the Exemption from Duties, which foreign Miniſters formerly enjoyed at this Court, meets from Time to Time with various Interpretations; now favourable, and at another Time leſs indulgent.

General Arnim has procured an Exemption for one only; tho' it is generally conjectured, that our Court will not act likewiſe hereafter, ſince the Count de Kaiſerling enjoys at Dreſden the ſame Exemption.

Our Court have not acted with equal Indulgence in regard to the Count de Bernes; Payment of Duty for the Tranſportation of his firſt Equipages having been demanded of him, notwithſtanding the Count de Bettuchieff met with a more favoruable Treatment at the Court of Vienna.

SWEDEN.

Stockholm, May 16. Yeſterday arrived two Couriers extraordinary; namely one from Verſailles, and another from Berlin.

'Tis generally thought that the Diſpatches which they have brought contain Matters of the laſt Importance; becauſe a grand Council was immediately held thereupon, in the Morning early, at which not only his Majeſty, and his Highneſs the Prince Succeſſor, bnt the Principal Members of the Senate were likewiſe preſent.

Notwithſtanding all Things at Preſent continue in a State of Peace and Tranquility; and no one Act of Hoſtility has paſſed between Ruſſia and us; yet we are taking all the proper Meaſures imaginable for the Security of all our Provinces, in caſe of an unexpected Attack, eſpecially of Finland, to which Province our Troops are to be ſent forthwith. For which purpoſe two Regiments of Foot, and one of Horſe, are to be drawn out Scania, were they are at preſent quartered, and diſperſed in the Parts adjacent to this City, till they ſhall receive farther Orders.

ITALY.

Rome, May 23. At the ſame Time that our ſovereign Pontiff has the Satisfaction of ſeeing the Devotees of all Nations and of all Languages, flocking into his Capital he omits nothing that may contribute to their Refreſhment and Eaſe, after their Tedious Pilgrimages.

On the three firſt Days of the ſolemn Feſtival of Whitſuntide, three ſeveral Biſhops mounted the Roſtrum, and preached to the numerous poor Pilgrims in their Penitential Habits, the glad Tidings of the Goſpel.

The three Prelates were the Biſhop of Polignano, Marſico-Nuovo, and of Cagli.

FRANCE.

Paris, June 1. On Tueſday laſt his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty accompanied by the young Princeſſes, returned from Choiſy to Verſailles.

On Saturday his Majeſty ſet out again for Choiſy, from whence he will return again to Verſailles on Wedneſday Morning.

On Tneſday his Majeſty propoſes to review the Muſqueteers and Horſe Grenadiers; on the 7th he will be at Muette; and on the 8th will go to Compiegne.

In the mean Time, when Meſſ. de Belliſle and d'Argenſon ſet out to viſit the Inland Towns, Mr. de Rouille, Secretary of State for the Regulation of the Marine, will go to Breſt, in order to take a View of the State and Condition, not only of the Port of Breſt, but of the Magazines and other Warlike Stores.

A Man of War of 74 Guns will very ſhortly be launched there; and there is a proper Place erecting for his more commodious Inſpection of that Performance.

The Centeau is arrived at Breſt, under the Convoy of an Engliſh Veſſel, which preſerved it from being ſhipwreck'd on the Cape of Aiguilles.

There is no more public Talk of our Squadron which was to have ſet ſail about the middle of May.

His Majeſty, we hear, will ſhortly publiſh an Ordonnance in regard to the New Exerciſe, which is to be introduced into all the French and Foreign Foot-Regiments in his Majeſty's Service. It will be very long, we are told, and will be ſpecify every particular Time when the ſame is to be put in Practice.

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